

### **REMARKS**

Claims 4 and 6 are canceled. Applicant reserves the right to file those claims in a continuation application. Claim 5 has been amended. No new matter has been added. Claim 5 is now pending in the present application. Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of the present application in view of this response.

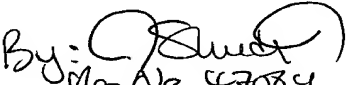
Applicant thanks the Examiner for noting that claim 5 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Claim 5 has been rewritten in independent form above. No new matter has been added.

Claims 4 to 6 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 101 for purportedly lacking practical application in the technological arts. Claims 4 and 6 have been canceled. Applicant respectfully submits that claim 5 contains statutory patentable subject matter. According to guidelines published by the USPTO, if the invention produces a useful result, *i.e.*, the invention has a practical application in the technological arts, then it should not be rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 101. Claim 5 concerns a process for secret transmission of a message by establishing a common cryptographic key for  $n$  subscribers using the Diffie-Hellman process. As explained in the Specification, this process has a practical application in the technological arts in that it provides a process to guarantee the secrecy of messages which are to be transmitted exclusively to a number of subscribers via insecure communication channels. *See, e.g.*, Specification at page 1, lines 5-10. The present application also provides a process wherein a group key is established with the aid of a tree structure in such a manner so that even after the group key has been established, subscribers can be removed from or added to the key directory without great effort. Accordingly, claim 5 does recite statutory patentable subject matter and withdrawal of the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 101 of claim 5 is respectfully requested.

CONCLUSION

In view of all of the above, it is believed that rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 101 of claim 5 has been overcome. Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that claim 5 is in a condition for allowance. It is therefore respectfully requested that the rejections be reconsidered and withdrawn, and that the present application issue as early as possible.

Respectfully submitted,

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Dated: Aug 22, 2006

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